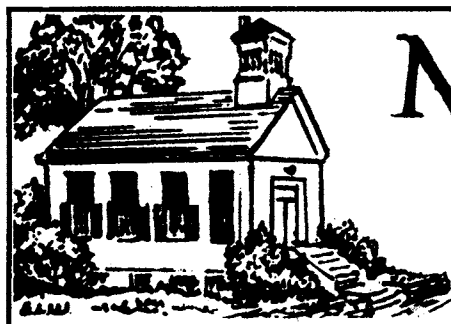




MONTEREY NEWS

September 2019
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVIII · Number 9



Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken-Brae farm stand, Swap Shop, Church foyer



The Monterey bridge group has been attracting Grand Slam participation on Tuesdays, at 1 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center. The friendly, informal play continues year round with experienced players of all levels welcome to join in. Photo by Steve Graves.

A shiny space helmet, fully equipped
With every needful raptor receptor.
September Dragon page 25

Then, for the duration of the deciduous
canopy, we harvest shade with no more
effort than showing up.

The Long and Winding Road page 14

It can be called a "sonic massage." The
experience is effortless and the results
are profound.

Free Sonic Massage page 12

When the butterfly suddenly opens its wings
out flat there is a flash of orange, which may
startle or confuse a predator, especially if
the very next instant the wings close again
and the orange butterfly has vanished.

Commas and Question Marks page 16



These species came to be known as the
"founding fish," having saved the famished
troops at Valley Forge so they could continue
the fight to become a free nation.

Striped Bass page 18

How does the idea of exploring great
cookbooks, as well as some of the food
described in them, sound to you?

New MCC Ideas page 6

It took a seventeenth-century artist and
naturalist, Maria Merian, just thirteen
years old, to observe and report about just
how this metamorphosis occurred.

A Miracle of Monarchs page 20

They were also charmed a few days later by
the visit of fox kits playing on their lawn.
Wildlife page 24

The children at both the groundbreaking
and the ribbon cutting did their job with
enthusiasm!

Library Opening page 2-3

Project 351 provides a special opportunity
to donate items, create cards, or sponsor a
care package that will benefit troops abroad
and veterans in the New England Center
& Home for Veterans.

Project 351 Care Packages page 12

Boats not stored on the racks will be re-
moved after October 15.

Kayak Storage Rules page 10

At the end of the sale, we were able to
present the library, mostly in tens, fives,
and ones, a grand total of \$2,773.

Library Benefit Tag Sale page 5

The band was swinging, and folks young
and not-so-young were swinging along
with them.

Steak Roast page 10

Dale Abrams will show you how to "read"
the landscape on a deeper level, making
connections between geological features,
including bedrock and landform, and habi-
tat characteristics for plants and wildlife.

Bedrock to Birds page 22

Lyman Thomson and runner-up Dick
Tryon received their recognition and
awards for aged Sugar Maple trees on
their properties estimated at 322 and 321
years old.

Arbor Quest Winners page 8



Library News

Opening Our New Library

Opening Celebration

If you missed the ribbon cutting on August 17 at the library, check out montereymasslibrary.org and you can see a video, courtesy of Tasja Keetman. The children at both the groundbreaking and the ribbon cutting did their job with enthusiasm! Check out the website for pictures of our big party.

The event started with children holding and cutting the ribbon to officially open the doors.

Library Director Mark Makuc spoke and thanked the countless people who had a part in this undertaking. Trustee Mickey Jervas spoke and thanked the people of Monterey who supported the library throughout the long process. Select board members Kenn Basler and Don Curnburn both spoke of the importance of the library in our small community. Finally, Mary Kronholm, one of the nine members of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, spoke of the importance of libraries in today's society. Then the party began. Children crafted bookmarks. Everyone enjoyed food and drinks while the rain held off until later that night. The Friends of the Monterey Library had been planning this party for several months and their hard work resulted in a joyous occasion for the town.

Our New Library

What's different at the new library? We'll focus on a few things this month that will help the library serve the needs of the town better than before.

We have two small rooms available for now on a first-come first-served basis. These rooms have chairs and a table and may be used by a small group or individuals. Electricity and WiFi, or even the ability to connect a laptop via an Ethernet cable, make these rooms great for computer work or Skype calls, and won't interfere

with other patrons. They are also good for escaping the noise of a functioning library.

The new library is much more family friendly. Our bathrooms make it easier to change a baby's diaper or for a toddler to work on toilet training. Our children's section is a good place for parents to keep track of the young ones and find books and other library items. And the older teenage sibling can go hang out at the young adult section.



We are open the same hours as before but we have added a feature that will expand our services to make the library more accessible to those who can't visit on all the different shifts. We now have a locker box outside of the library. Should you receive notice that you have a hold that has come in, but you won't be able to pick it up during scheduled hours for a few days, give us a call (413-528-3795) and we now can put your item in a locker and email you the combination for the lock. You'll be able to pick it up anytime. The day the locks arrived for the lockers we had such a request and time mattered since the patron was leaving on vacation before the library opened up again. No problem. Here's your combination. Pick it up at your convenience.

We've added quite a few new magazines for your perusing while you sit on the deck and listen to the waterfall. Come down and see for yourself what we have.

Of course, the biggest improvement we made was to eliminate steps and make the library accessible. Whether you walk or roll, you will be able to enjoy the same services of the Monterey Library. Our apologies that it took this long, but we finally got it right.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

Editor's Note: The outside distribution box for the Monterey News is still attached to the library's bookmobile drop box. You'll find it behind the CD/DVD and Books drop boxes. It is our only location where you can pick up the News anytime.

Monterey Softball

Open Call

All softball players
Join a 50+ year tradition of
pick-up slow pitch softball.
Ages 10 to 80.
Summer Sunday mornings
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Games begin at 10:30

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

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It was the kids last October who actually broke ground. And it was the kids, with Nate Amidon-Castille wielding the big scissors, to officially open the library. Inside there were speeches to be heard by the approximately eighty folks who squeezed into the multipurpose room. Upwards of two hundred library fans showed up. There were crafts for the kids; sandwiches, fruit, and desserts for everyone; an opportunity to take out a library card or a book or DVD. Some kids checked out the computers. It was quite a party to celebrate a years-long process that began with community surveys to find out what the town wanted, and progressed to this amazing new facility for the town.

The *News* wants to thank everyone who sent in photos of the event, including June Thomas, Erika Chait, Celeste Bruno, and EDM (architects).

Below: Mark Makuc, library director; Mary Kronholm from Blandford, one of the nine Massachusetts Library Commissioners; Mickey Jervas, library trustee, representing the Monterey Library building committee; and Kenn Basler, chair of the select board.



Friends of Lake Garfield Dues and News

First, an apology. Forgive me for bugging you to pay your membership dues over the last twenty years. (Twenty years? Can you believe it?) It's just that we need your dues to do all that we do.

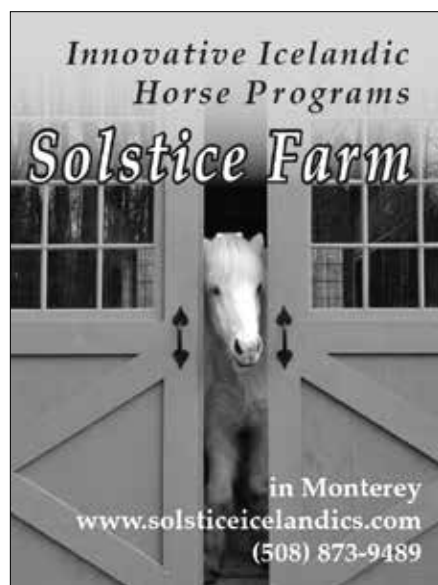
Together with our lake scientist, we wage war on weeds; we test the water of Lake Garfield to make sure it's safe and clean; we monitor invasive species such as zebra mussels and purple loosestrife; and we work with the town and the Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) to maintain the health and well-being of Lake Garfield for all in Monterey to enjoy. (See this month's Lake Garfield Working Group notes next column.)

Enough about us. Let's talk about you. Have you gotten around to paying your dues this year? Slipped your mind? You're not alone. Seems the wonderful weather combined with fewer pleas for FLG membership dues kept lots of folks busy doing other things. Please let's fix that ... one, two, three. It couldn't be easier.

1. Go to our sensational, informative new website—FriendsOfLakeGarfield.org
 2. Click on "Friends of Lake Garfield"
 3. Click on "Giving and Membership"
- (I'll wait for you to get back to reading ...)

Hi, again. Thank you so much for joining the team to help maintain the health and well-being of our glorious lake.

—Hy Rosen
The Friends of Lake Garfield



Lake Garfield Working Group

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) held its monthly meeting at the town hall on August 12. Shannon Poulain, who works at Camp Half Moon and has taken on a project funded by the Friends of Lake Garfield to monitor cyanobacteria in Lake Buel and Lake Garfield, presented the findings of her research to date. In addition to explaining the procedures and technology of identifying species and measuring bacteria concentration, she reported that she had attended an EPA presentation in the use of "citizen science" to monitor lake health and noted that she will soon acquire equipment capable of forecasting toxic algae blooms by measuring phosphorus, chlorophyll, and nitrate concentration.

Following Shannon's presentation, the LGWG discussed protocols for informing the public via the Board of Health as well as the Parks Commission in the event of unsafe levels of cyanobacteria. LGWG member Michael Germain added that the

fall meeting of Lakes and Pond Association of Western New England (LAPA) will focus on cyanobacteria. Hillary Snook of the EPA will give the presentation which is open to the public at the Zion Baptist Church of Pittsfield on Saturday, October 5.

LGWG member Dennis Lynch gave an update on the ongoing work of collaborating with town procurement officer Melissa Noe in the proper writing and distribution of request for proposals (RFPs) for this fall's diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) of the invasive eurasian milfoil weed.

The remainder of discussion included a review of ongoing efforts at coordinating the participation and financing of LGWG efforts with those of the town and its various departments and officers.

Our next meeting will be held at the town hall on Monday, September 9, at 7 p.m. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

—Steve Snyder
LGWG Chair

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A recent movie night at the town hall

Council on Aging Events

Monday, September 9, at 10 a.m., we will be hosting the quarterly regional Council on Aging for southern Berkshire towns, meeting at the Monterey Community Center. The towns of Otis, Tolland, Tyringham, Sandisfield, New Marlboro, and Monterey are invited to discuss and work on matters of interest to all. The regularly scheduled Monterey Council on Aging meeting will be held beforehand, at 9 a.m., also at the Monterey Community Center. Coffee and breakfast items will be served.

Tuesday, September 10, at 7 p.m., is the monthly movie night at town hall. *Crossing Delancey*, an 80s romantic comedy, starring Amy Irving, about a matchmaking grandmother who sets up her granddaughter with a pickle maker. Light refreshments served.

Thursday, September 12, the foot nurse will be at town hall from 9 a.m. to noon. Appointments can be made by calling the CoA at 413-528-1443, ext 247. The cost to the individual is \$25, with the Council paying an additional \$10.

We have plans for a presentation by the CannacareDocs soon. Sorry, no date by press time, but we will try to let everyone know, put out flyers, etc., once we have it scheduled. To learn more about them beforehand, go to cannacaredocs.com.

Our big plans for a trip to Vall-Kill and the Culinary Arts Institute have also run into problems with scheduling at the CIA. So, again, we'll let you know. This has been very disappointing. Hopefully, we'll have a good outcome!

— Kyle Pierce
Chair, Council on Aging

Monterey Tag Sale Library Benefit

When we decided to run a tag sale to raise money for the Monterey Library, our heads said, "What are we getting ourselves into?" But our hearts said, "This is going to be great!" And the hearts knew. After we sent out some emails and hung up some posters, Montereyans showed up at the community center in droves on Friday, August 9, bringing donations by the carload. Several donations even came from our neighbors in Great Barrington, Otis, and Lee (Clark's Nursery).

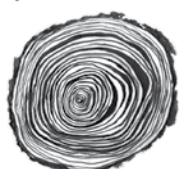
After Mark Makuc and a couple of the coffee club members erected one small and two huge canopies, many of the contributors stayed on to volunteer by filling up and organizing the items on twelve long tables placed under cover. These same volunteers returned the next day to help the shoppers choose their treasures. And treasures there were. From tables to telescopes, from tea pots to tiffany flower vases, there was surely something for everyone. And that is why at the end of the sale, we were able to present the library, mostly in tens, fives, and ones, a grand total of \$2,773.

This could not have happened without the spirit of our wonderful Monterey community fueled by the love of our new beautiful library. Not even the tents blowing over in the wind deterred the dedicated volunteers and bargain-hunting buyers.

So to one and all, the donors, the devoted group of volunteers, the cashiers, and the generous shoppers, a heartfelt and appreciative thank you.

— Carole Clarin and Myrna Rosen

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New events

Canasta Lessons are being provided by Barbara Cohen on Thursday nights, September 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. If you always wanted to play this popular card game but weren't sure how, come to the community center for some instruction and fun. Space is limited and preregistration is required. Contact Barbara at bcdance@aol.com and bring a \$10 one-time fee for supplies. If paying by check, make it payable to the Town of Monterey.

Amber Chand: *Searching for the Moon: A Story of Love, Despair, Faith and Forgiveness* is an inspirational one-woman show, written and performed by Berkshire resident, Amber Chand. It will be staged at the Monterey Community Center on Friday, September 20, 7 to 8:30 p.m. There will be a talk with audiences after the performance.

Join Amber on her evocative journey across three continents into a world of Indian arranged marriages, British boarding schools, African dictators and exile, encounters with Indian holy men and Rwandan genocide survivors, and the meteoric rise and fall of her multimillion-dollar business.

Her show has been performed both in the United States and internationally.

"Her performance is captivating and powerful as her life story itself. At times funny, at others stark and brutal...Her tale of exotic places, cultural differences, success and reversals in family fortunes and ultimately of self-actuation and the simple joy of living well is deeply affecting." David Young, Octagon Theater, U.K.

Tickets: \$20 at the door, or online at: bit.ly/searchingmoon. Seating is limited; doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Ongoing Activities

There continue to be many ongoing activities at the community center. Please feel free to try them out.

Mahjong: Every wondered about Mahjong? Come and find out what it's all about. There is a group meeting on Mondays at 7 p.m. and then again on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. This ancient

tile-based game will sharpen your mind and help develop skills in strategy and calculation, as well as just being fun.

Darn Yarners continue to meet at the community center every first and third Thursday at 1 p.m. Bring whatever project you are working on and enjoy socializing with other creative people.

Community chorus: If you enjoy singing, consider joining Oren Rosenthal and his local chorus to share the joy of voices in unison. This group meets on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:15 p.m. A small donation is requested.

Chair yoga continues with Connie Wilson every Tuesday at 9 a.m. It's a great way to relax and stay limber.

Ping Pong is taking place on Saturdays at 2 p.m. It is not only fun but a great way to get some exercise. If your ping pong skills are a bit rusty, come and get some practice and you'll be up to speed in no time.

New Ideas for Activities

How does the idea of exploring great cookbooks, as well as some of the food described in them, sound to you? If you love good books and good food, contact Mary Makuc, the MCC coordinator, and she will put you in touch with other like-minded individuals so a group can be started. Also, if anyone has ideas about new groups or activities they would like to organize at the community center, let Mary know.



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As always, donations to the Monterey Community Center are appreciated and can be sent to PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245, or you can contribute through the website, ccmonterey.org. Many thanks to those who continue to consider the community center when making charitable donations. Also, check out the calendar on the website for new additions. Any questions or suggestions can be directed to Mary Makuc by phone at 413-528-3600, or by email at calendar@ccmonterey.org.

—Laurie Shaw, Chair

Community Center Committee

Editor's Note: As of July 1, the community center is being run by a committee appointed by the select board, and will function as any other official town committee with regards to warned meetings, procedures, minutes, etc. The Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House, which was formed to raise money and take on the construction of the community center, will remain active in the background, and will continue accepting donations to help with funding for any future major needs.

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Community Chorus September Schedule

The Monterey Community Chorus is a weekly, non-auditioned chorus that meets most Tuesdays, at 7 p.m., at the community center. (This month's chorus includes Tuesdays September 3, 10, and 24.)

Singers of all ability and experience are welcomed. Our goal is to experience the benefits of group singing on a regular basis. We do work on songs, and our singing, and occasionally perform at appropriate venues, but we come together mostly because we love singing good songs—and because we get to know our fellow singers, usually laughing with them, and catching up with things happening in our lives—but sometimes it has more profound effects.

In August we sang at the memorial service of Sue Protheroe, one of our early members, who went from fully functioning to dying in a matter of a few months. Difficult as it was, it was clear that singing and music and participation in chorus eased not only her burden, but her family's as well. We were grateful to be a part of that.

—Oren Rosenthal, director

Knox Gallery

Thanks to all the artists who participated in "Welcome Back !!!," our inaugural exhibit in the new Monterey Library. If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, please stop by the Knox Gallery before September 27 and enjoy the work of accomplished artists who work in a variety of mediums, and who are your neighbors.

Most of the work is for sale, and we ask artists to donate 25% of sale price to The Friends of the Monterey Library. Enjoy more art in your home and support the library at the same time.

Michael Banner will curate our next upcoming exhibition, "Monterey Perennial," which opens on Friday, October 4,

with a reception on October 5 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This show features the work of Joe Baker, Maureen Banner, Christine Brunoski Goldfinger, Ron Goldfinger, and Richard Kimball. Each week—during good weather—this ad-hoc group of *plein air* painters will gather at various picturesque locations. The talents, camaraderie, and shared dedication of these veteran Knox Gallery artists promise us a rich display of interpretations that feature beautiful Monterey scenery.

We hope to see you on October 5. Anytime you are able to stop by (during library hours) please check out what is on display in our beautiful new space.

—MaryPaul Yates



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Come Join the Fun!

Monterey Arbor Quest

The Monterey Arbor Quest came to an end on July 27 at the Monterey Fire Company steak roast after nearly three months, beginning with the Arbor Day celebration on April 28. Many emails and coupons were received; fifty-one oldest live tree entries were submitted by twenty-five applicants with a whole lot of tree measurements.

As reported in the August edition of the *News*, the Quest winners Lyman Thomson and runner-up Dick Tryon received their recognition and awards for aged Sugar Maple trees on their properties estimated at 322 and 321 years old, respectively. See the chart on page 9 for the full accounting of the entries.

Thirteen species of live trees are noted alphabetically and range from American Beech to White Pine. The ages were estimated beginning with measuring the circumference, and from that, determining the diameter. Charts listing the average volume of wood (by species) added to the diameter each year are then applied to find the approximate age. It should be noted that the use of growth factors to determine the age of a tree is not an exacting estimate, as many factors impact an individual tree's growth: soil condition, water, sunlight, stresses from drought, storm damage, etc.

The Arbor Quest article in the April issue of the *News* suggested that trees may be considered "silent markers of our history" and what interesting events may have happened during their growth. So from a historical perspective, here are a couple of world and local happenings since the birth of the Monterey's oldest



Members of the Monterey News board were present when the awards were presented for the Arbor Quest. L. to r.: Dennis Lynch, Bonner McAllester, Cindy Hoogs, Kyle Pierce (president), Dick Tryon, Roz Halberstadter, Lyman Thomson, Stephen Moore.

known tree, estimated at 322 years old. The life of the tree might have started in 1697, ninety years after the first English settlement in North America at Jamestown, Virginia, and seventy-seven years after the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, England to the Massachusetts colony. From a local historic perspective, the tree was thirty-eight years old in 1735 when the land which became Tyringham and Monterey was first settled as Housatonic Township Number 1.

As we can all see, trees not only consume carbon dioxide during growth and produce oxygen for life, but help shade us during the hot summer days, provide us with

a sense of beauty, and help to inform us about our history and sense of place in this world.

The *Monterey News* would again like to thank all those who have participated in the 2019 Arbor Quest and who knows, just maybe there is still another tree older than 322 years and yet to be discovered in Monterey. If you find one, please send it to the *News* and we'll let you know!

—Dennis Lynch

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Name	Tree Species	Circumference in feet/inches	Estimated age in years
Lyman Thomson	Sugar Maple	15' 4"	322
Dick Tryon	Sugar Maple	15' 3"	321
Kathryn Roberts	Sugar Maple	15' 1"	317
Jim Dutcher	Sugar Maple	15'	315
Steve Moore	Sugar Maple	14' 9 1/5"	311
Marie Enoch & Susan Cain	White Oak	15' 9"	301
Lyman Thomson	Sugar Maple	14' 3"	300
Christine Goldfinger	Norway Spruce	15' 2"	290
Lyman Thomson	Sugar Maple	13' 8"	287
Carl Hartman	Sugar Maple	13' 4"	280
Lyman Thomson	White Ash	14' 1/4"	268
JoAnn Bell	Northern Red Oak	17'	260
Jerrold Raab	Copper Beech	15' 7"	238
Michael Banner	Northern Red Oak	15' 4"	234
Lyman Thomson	White Ash	12' 1 1/2"	232
Lyman Thomson	Shagbark Hickory	7' 10"	225
Tom Ryan	Sugar Maple	10' 7"	223
Rob Hoogs	Northern Red Oak	14' 3"	218
Peter Murkett	American Beech	9' 6"	217
Dana Vorisek	White Pine	11' 2"	213
Tom Ryan & Michael Banner	Northern Red Oak	13' 8 1/2"	210
Tom Ryan	Northern Red Oak	13' 8 1/2"	210
Gene Bounous	Northern Red Oak	13' 3 1/2"	203
Tom Ryan	White Ash	10' 6"	201
Paul Lang	Northern Red Oak	12' 9"	195
Tom Ryan	Northern Red Oak	12' 6"	191
Tom Ryan	Northern Red Oak	12' 2"	186
Lyman Thomson	Northern Red Oak	12' 1"	185
Bonner McAllester	Northern Red Oak	12'	183

Michael Banner	Northern Red Oak	11' 7"	177
Tom Ryan	Northern Red Oak	11' 6"	176
Gene Bounous	Northern Red Oak	11' 6"	176
Lyman Thomson	Northern Red Oak	11'	168
Robert Rausch	Northern Red Oak	10' 10"	166
Tom Ryan	Northern Red Oak	10' 9"	164
Elaine Lynch	Norway Spruce	8' 7"	164
Tom Ryan	Northern Red Oak	0' 4"	158
Kyle & Don Pierce	Northern Red Oak	10' 1"	154
Bonner McAllester	White Pine	8'	153
Michael Banner	American Beech	6' 8"	153
Tom Ryan	Northern Red Oak	9' 8"	148
Tom Ryan	Northern Red Oak	9' 6 1/2"	146
Michael Banner	Larch	7' 7"	145
Tom Ryan	Black Cherry	7' 6"	143
Tom Ryan	Northern Red Oak	9' 2"	140
Mary Kate Jordan	Northern Red Oak	8' 6"	130
Dennis Lynch	Northern Red Oak	7' 7"	130
Lyman Thomson	Basswood	11' 5"	126
Lyman Thomson	Apple	7' 1"	81

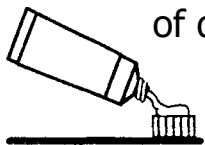


Stephen Moore

On August 10, Jeff Boyer, a.k.a. The Bubble Man, wowed a packed room of kids and parents at the library with his bubble making skills.

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RESIDENT TO USE IT

Kayak Storage Rules

The Monterey Parks Commission is clamping down on boat storage on the west side of Tyringham Road across from the town beach. The above sign is going to be posted there. Boats not stored on the racks will be removed after October 15. Beginning next year residents will need to get a sticker to use the racks.



2019 Monterey Fire Company Steak Roast

This year's steak roast was another success, with hundreds of folks purchasing tickets for steak and swordfish dinners, with all the fixings and a free drink. The Peter Poirier band was swinging, and folks young and not-so-young were swinging along with them, on the ground and in the air.

Thanks to Anna Poirier for the photos.



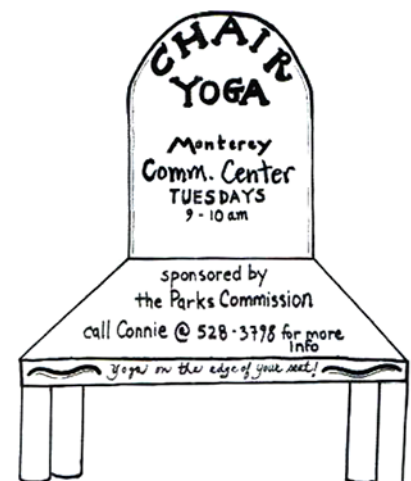
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Sixth Berkshire Pottery Tour

Something new for this year's Berkshire Pottery Tour, during the weekend of September 28 and 29, is that four of the six stops will include guest potters.

Ellen Grenadier will be hosting her guest potter, Connie Talbot from Cummington, MA. Connie makes flameware pots, pots you can cook with on the gas and electric stovetop or grill. She creates tagines, casseroles, frying pans, pizza stones, and more, all able to go directly onto a hot flame, into a hot oven, or into a freezer. You have to see it to believe it. There will be a demonstration at mid-day Sunday, with sample bites. For more information about Connie's work, go to highhollowpottery.blogspot.com.

The annual self-guided tour takes you through the beautiful valleys of the southern Berkshires in early fall, reaching from Richmond to New Marlborough. Admission to all events is free and families are welcome. More information and a map of the tour route can be accessed at berkshirepotterytour.com, or picked up at Grenadier Pottery studio, 12 Tyringham Road, in Monterey, or by calling her at 413-528-9973.



John Polak

Connie Talbot's flameware casserole

Each potter will host an open house and sale of their work and their guests' work in their studio. The pottery tour is an excellent format for exposing the potters' work to a larger market, allowing patrons to meet the maker of the goods they purchase and see where and how it is all made.

Look for the distinctive orange and white Pottery Tour Road signs at key turns on the weekend of the event.

—Ellen Grenadier

Berkshire Fish Hatchery September 14—Last Derby

This year's hatchery fishing derbies down River Road are coming to an end on Saturday, September 14.

All events are 9 to 10:30 a.m., for children thirteen and under, rain or shine. Prizes are awarded and limited equipment and assistance is available. And don't forget to wander up to the hatchery and observe the fish in the tanks.

—Brian Layton

Berkshire National Fish Hatchery

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Berkshire Pottery Tour

September 28 & 29, 10am - 5pm



A self-guided driving tour of 6 Berkshire County pottery studios

www.berkshirepotterytour.com

Care Packages and Cards Honoring Veterans and Troops

As the summer wraps up and autumn begins, it is important to remember the tragedies on September 11, 2001, as well as to commemorate those who risked their lives to help others—and continue to do so everyday. We should take into appreciation our local fire and police departments, as well as veterans from Monterey and beyond. Project 351 provides a special opportunity to donate items, create cards, or sponsor a care package that will benefit troops abroad and veterans in the New England Center & Home for Veterans, located in downtown Boston. (To learn more about the Center, go to nechv.org.) There are 231 other service projects led by youth across the commonwealth that are working for the same goals, and, by participating as a community, we are able to contribute in unity with our neighbors all around Massachusetts.

Leading up to September 11 there will be boxes in the library, town hall, and community center to donate items. The most needed items this year are:

- Shampoo
- Hand Sanitizer
- Single Serve Snacks
- Sunscreen and Bug Spray Wipes

These will be incorporated into care packages that will not only show our support and appreciation for troops and veterans, but supply them with necessities that they need.

Another great way to provide comfort and to show gratitude is to make cards, which can be as decorative, simple, wordy, short, or patriotic as you would like. It's amazing to see how a short note and thoughtful drawing can make someone's day—and who is more deserving of a better day than those who worked to preserve our freedoms? These cards will be included in every care package, and our goal for Monterey this year is a hundred cards. Completed cards can be dropped off in the boxes, or, if you are interested in holding a "card making party," contact me (see below).

The final way to contribute is through sponsoring a care package. In Boston, on September 11, youth from around the state will be constructing 1,200 care packages—including items from Monterey. If you would like to sponsor a whole care package, a \$35 donation can be made to the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund, which works to support military families, and partners with Project 351 every year distributing care packages. Last year we were able to sponsor three whole care packages—let's see how many we can reach now. To make a donation, please email me at nadiamakuc10@gmail.com, or call 413-528- 5834.

Thank you all for your donations and involvement in the community. Over the past few years Project 351 has been able to make a huge impact, helping hundreds, building up our community, making Monterey and Massachusetts stronger.

—Nadia Makuc

Monterey Cultural Council Grant Applications

Monterey Cultural Council reminder—Applications for grant money from the Massachusetts Cultural Council will be available September 1. All applications must be submitted by October 15.

To apply, or for more information, go to massculturalcouncil.org, click on the green "Menu" bottom near top right, then use the search bar for "Local Cultural Council Programs," and scroll for application information.

—Wendy Benjamin
Monterey Cultural Council

Free Sonic Massage

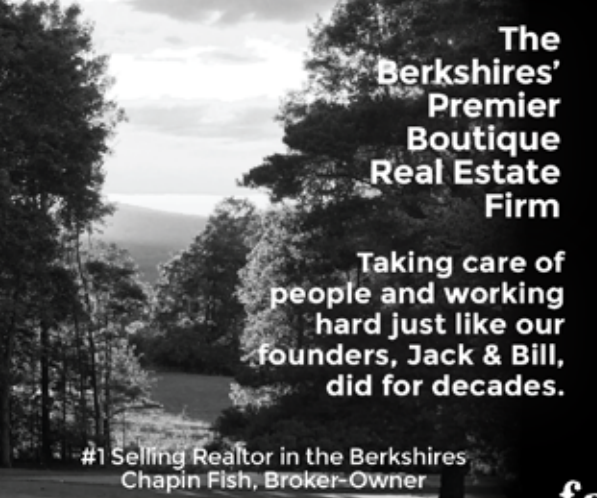
There will be a free community sound healing experience on Monday, September 16, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., in Susan Cain's home at 9 Heron Pond Park, Monterey.

The gong is a healing tool which creates an alchemical blend of sounds that helps relax the body, bringing it into a place of deep relaxation and balance.

The gong is a flat, round metal surface that has been pounded into a form and played with a mallet. Different sounds radiate out which, in turn, positively work to "cleanse" different levels of the body—physical, emotional, energetic, mental, and spiritual. It can be called a "sonic massage." The experience is effortless and the results are profound.

Email Susan at susancain9@gmail.com with any questions and/or to reserve your spot. All proceeds go to Purradise, Great Berkshire Humane Society.

—Susan Cain



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Robert Johnson's photo of three bears crossing the paved part of Hupi: Mama and two babes.

"I Feel Better When I'm Dancing"

So sings Meghan Trainor. We agree, and we love dancing to that song in Mimi Rosenblatt's Cardio Groove class at MAX (Moving Arts Exchange). Mimi mixes up genres and old and new songs (plus some light weights) to give us a fun, balanced workout that exercises brain and body. She is also a participant in professional dancer Andrea Blacklow's Body and Soul in Motion that incorporates modern dance technique, African, jazz, and other styles of world dance. Each class includes a warm-up, muscle shaping and toning, cardio work, and dance combinations that increase coordination, spatial awareness, and proper alignment. Special attention is given to helping the brain connect and utilize muscles that are often neglected in our daily lives or even in our regular workouts. It is an "open level" class. You do not need any dance experience to participate, though seasoned dancers will also benefit.

I have two artificial hips, some others have dodgy knees, ankles or shoulders—the exercises help us increase strength, flexibility, and range of motion, as well as improve posture, balance, and stamina. My next challenge is to try Sarah Daunt's Ballet Class. I am assured that she is very gentle and supportive. That is the MAX way. Chris Goldfinger says, "It's a wonderfully positive place." And she reminded me that our insurance reimburses us the same as it would a traditional gym.

Come try a class. Adult open house is on the afternoon of September 14:



At noon: Body & Soul in Motion

1:30: Cardio Groove

2:00: Ballet

2:30: (possibly) Tap

Check the web site movingartsx.org for final open house details.

Youth and teen classes start September 9. All students ages three through eighteen will participate in an original production that promises to bring a wonderful children's book to life through dance theatre, awakening all the neurons of the imagination and social engagement.

Max's Teen Artist program will be adding to its production list a musical theater performance with former CATS performing artist and Radio City Rockette, Amber Cameron. She will be leading a semester-long musical theater performance class. Students will have the opportunity to learn original choreography from *Crazy for You*, *CATS*, and the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. Their work will culminate in a performance in the salon at MAX in December.

—Pam Johnson

Monterey Kundalini Yoga

For the month of September, Kundalini yoga, as taught by Yogi Bhajan, will be taught on Tuesdays, September 3, 10, 17, and 24, in the home of Susan Cain at 9 Heron Pond Park, from 9 to 10:15 a.m. There are no levels, you start right where you are. Class will include pranayama (breath), kriya (postures), meditation with music, and a gong. This yoga allows you to rejuvenate, to relieve stress, and to come into harmony with oneself.

For first time students: \$20.00 for four classes this September. Returning students: \$12.00 per class.

Contact Susan at susancain9@gmail.com with any questions and to reserve your spot. Please come ten minutes early to settle in.

—Susan Cain



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Here's a Thought... The Long and Winding Road

No one ever promised that any long and winding road—real ones, symbolic ones, or the one in Paul McCartney's lyrics—would be lined with trees. Monterey is lucky enough to be rich with them. We're so wealthy in both long, winding roads and trees that it could be easy to take them for granted.

I once overheard someone comment that she could never live in the Northeast because of the trees. She lived in the canyon lands out west, a place with its own stark, forbidding beauty.

"You can really see the earth out there, all the way down to her bones," she said. "Here the earth is all covered over by trees."

Granted, in some sense, all they do is stand there. That, by itself, might be enough. But there's more. Those little green engines on the tips of the twigs keep working their photosynthetic magic. To vastly simplify the formula: tree stands in light, takes it in along with CO₂ and water. Then, independent of the light, the process creates sugar and, lucky for us, a byproduct, oxygen. We take that in without any extra work on our part.

Then, for the duration of the deciduous canopy, we harvest shade with no more effort than showing up. In early autumn, we open our eyes to enjoy the seasonal color display. Some harvests, like maple syrup, take planning and specialized equipment, as well as significant know-how, time, and effort. But fruit and nuts, as well as leaves and bark for the herbalists who know how to use them, are ours for the taking. All we need is timing, a strong, flexible back, decent eyesight, and a container for carrying them home.

The wisdom to leave some of the abundance on the ground would be good, too. That way some of the trees' gifts can fulfill their intended purpose: to reproduce their own.

Tornado, drought, flood, blizzard have taken their toll, though. With charcoal production, sheep farming, building a demand for firewood, past humans did their part, too. We know they took most of the old growth forest, but the woodlands have regrown into the beauty so familiar to us.



Mary Kate Jordan

Although I snapped this photo in Ireland, it's one of the spots on that side of the Atlantic that reminded me a bit of "the auld sod" here at home.

It's yet another long and winding road into whatever future we and our woodlands share. So, here's a thought. The trees might benefit from a little support from us, the current crop of humans whom they will, we assume, outlive. One simple offering won't take any specialized knowledge, equipment, or education. It's free, too. It's called gratitude. Here's the recipe:

Next time you're out in the woods, or driving by a stand of trees, tell them how much you appreciate them. You might risk saying so out loud, even though that's not the traditional Yankee way.

Maybe out loud isn't necessary. Trees don't speak English. Raise your eyebrows a little and give them a half-smile instead. You don't have to stop and hug a tree, either. Just be grateful. Who knows where that might lead?

We might start a movement, a ripple in the Force. I can see the bumper sticker now: Keep Monterey green as Ireland. Nobody else has to know how we do it, either. Ready? Let's get to it, in our own thrifty, pragmatic, New England way.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Having a Good Day

- Your grandson, who you don't hear from often, calls to wish you a happy birthday.
- The peaches are finally ripe!

Housatonic Heritage Walks

The eighteenth annual Housatonic Heritage Walks offers seventy-one free guided walks to interesting historic, cultural, and natural sites in Berkshire County, MA, and Litchfield County, CT. The walks are offered on Saturday and Sunday during all four weekends this September.

All types of guided heritage walks are offered, ranging from tours of historic buildings, cemeteries, and town centers, hikes on the Appalachian Trail, walks through industrial heritage sites and ruins, walks and bike rides on old country roads that have a history, behind-the-scenes tours at various performing arts venues, and strolls through formal gardens and estates. Two walks are offered at the Bidwell House Museum. See page 23 for specific information about those walks.

Also included is a canoe paddling trip on the Housatonic River, and "family friendly" walks. All ages—all people are invited to join us! Local experts leading the tours will help participants explore the region's rich and varied historical, cultural, industrial and environmental history.

The Housatonic Heritage Walks are a partnership between the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, the numerous heritage organizations in the Upper Housatonic River Valley, the Berkshire Visitors Bureau, and the National Park Service.

Pick up printed brochures in the Monterey Library, or download a brochure by going to HousatonicHeritage.org, and look under "Events."

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pink poppy petals
 fall, floating to the floor
 like love letters
 fresh, yet forlorn and fading
but some dreams don't die
 they transform, transmute, transcend
 across creation's crucible
 lessons labored and learned
beauty and the barefoot boy
 moonstruck mainly, but married
 to the random realm of the receptive
 panhandling poetic pantomimes

— Boney Oscar
July 2019



The Rail-Stop at Wassaic

The last train leaves, and no one comes home to the house,
a darkened farm-house without cars
that sits by itself at the foot of a wooded ridge,
a sofa on the porch, and a clanging flagpole.
Behind it, a ragged lawn wanders up
to a black maw that beckons you into the woods.

Dusk draws on, and the hill grows rich with shadows.
Head up the path, already black at your feet,
and soon you'll be lost, unlooked for and unseen,
and finally you'll have found it, the source of the stream
of loneliness that flows over you at night in bed.
Now, freeze beneath a low bough like a mole.

If you stay there forever you'll never be more alone,
in a place the rain can fall on without thought.

— Don Barkin



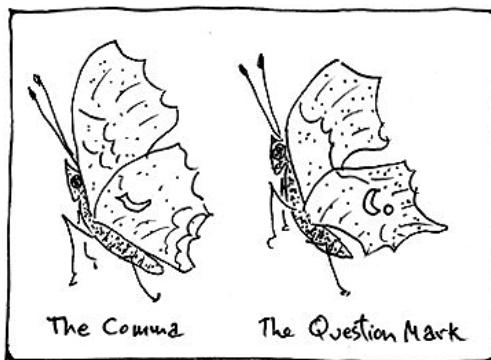
Figure Drawings

— Kit Patten, 2019

Butterflies on the Hops: Commas and Question Marks

Hop Merchants are butterflies. They eat hops, and they got their name from an idea that hop farmers once had about them. Like other butterflies, these have a caterpillar phase, then a chrysalis, then a winged adult which lays eggs that hatch into caterpillars. The caterpillar living on hop leaves forms a chrysalis which hangs from the plant the same way a Monarch chrysalis hangs from a milkweed. In the case of the Hop Merchant, the chrysalis has dead-leaf camouflage colors: browns and grays. It is like the Monarch in that it also has some shiny decorations. They may be silvery, or they may be gold. The hop farmers back in the day felt they could predict the market price of hops based upon the silver or gold spots on the chrysalises they found hanging in their hop plants. They called the butterflies and the caterpillars Hop Merchants (at right).

Nowadays there must be other ways to predict the price of hops, as the name has been changed to Eastern Comma. There are other Commas among butterflies, all members of the same genus, *Polygonia*, or “many angles.” In fact this group of congeners (members of the same genus) are known collectively as anglewings. Not only do the wings contain angles, they also contain silver curved marks which on some resemble a comma and on others look like a question mark, a comma with a dot near one end. These distinguishing marks can only



be seen on the underside of the hindwing, but they do stand out. The butterflies often sit still with wings folded together over their backs and are nearly invisible thanks to their cryptic or camouflage coloring. A very close look will reveal a small silver comma or question mark.

When the butterfly suddenly opens its wings out flat, showing the topsides, there is a flash of orange, which some say startles or confuses a predator, especially if



the very next instant the wings close again and the orange butterfly has vanished.

The Merchants and the Question Marks like to eat nettles, also hops, and we have both of those growing right here. We brought the hop plants home from Wyoming decades back. We'd been visiting friends who had them growing on a trellis over the deck to make a shady place in summer. They gave us a couple of seedlings in a paper cup which we carried in a holder in our car for the next weeks as we camped in the west and then made the long drive home. Now we have our own hops over the deck here.

This year we also had caterpillars, feasting on the leaves. I took a few pictures, thinking they must be Hop Merchants, but it turned out they were Question Marks. Like the Merchants, they will soon pupate and emerge as orange adults (from the top side), then overwinter somewhere protected. They will come out next March, ready to eat all sorts of things. We think of butterflies as needing flowers and nectar, but the anglewings are happy to eat sap, mud, rotting fruit, and even dung which contains fruit.

This year the *Polygonia interrogationis* (the Question Marks) ate up every leaf there was on our hops. Then they must have moved off into the many nettles nearby and made their chrysalises there. Soon they will emerge as bright sparkling fall Question Marks, and then look for wintering places, *hibernacula*. We'll see them again in March, about the time the Tortoiseshells and other overwintered butterflies come out into the early spring world. I didn't see any Hop Merchants over our deck, but I wonder what their prediction would be for the price of hops this year. I used to buy hops to make beer, using dried flowers. When we got our own plants growing I saved the flowers for my home-brew. This year there won't be a single hop blossom, nor any way to predict the market. This makes it especially fitting that our resident species this year was called the Question Mark, right?

Not to close with a corny name joke, I should be sure to say how much we enjoyed the daily monitoring of the progress of the gorgeous caterpillars themselves. We don't begrudge them this year's hop crop. We have dried flowers from years gone by.

—Bonner McAllester

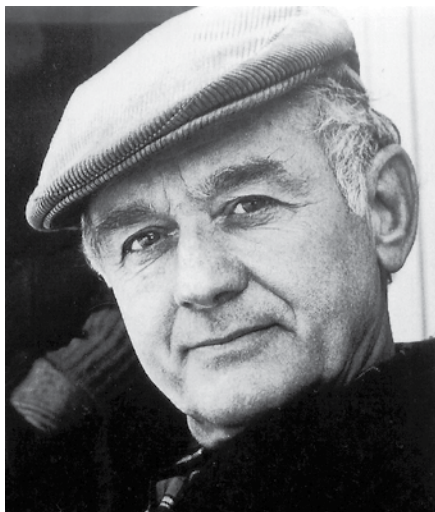
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Remembrance Frank D'Amato

Well-known Monterey artist Frank D'Amato passed away on August 19 in Framingham, MA, at age 92. Frank lived full time in Monterey upon retiring in the mid-eighties, after many years in summer residence.

Frank was born in Lynn, MA, and served in the Navy in World War II. He earned a BFA from Massachusetts College of Art, and an MFA in Art History and Education from Columbia University; his career was spent as an art educator at Concord Carlisle Regional H.S., Concord, MA.

In Monterey his recognizable artwork was featured in landscape paintings as well as holiday cards depicting Monterey scenes. He willingly served the town as a member of the veteran's memorial park committee and actually designed the current Monterey Veteran's Memorial Park. Earlier, Frank was co-chair of the original Monterey Arts Council (now the cultural council) which produced many memorable Monterey Arts Festivals.

Frank D'Amato is survived by his sister Ruth Mowder of Peabody, MA, several nieces and nephews, and long-term partner Claire Dosick of Natick, MA. A memorial service of remembrance will be held at a later date in the Boston area.

Pleasant Surprises

- One fall jacket left on the sale rack, and it's your size.
- Friends invite you for an impromptu picnic at the Inside-Out Theatre at Jacob's Pillow.

Remembrance William Burke-Archer Elizabeth Burke-Archer

William (Billy) J. Burke-Archer, 63, and his daughter Elizabeth Burke-Archer, 35, of Maryland died in July 2019 in Maryland. William was born Sept. 30, 1956, in Monterey, Massachusetts, the son of Russell H. Burke and the late Josephine (Dean) Burke. William is survived by his father, now living in Becket; brothers Michael Burke and wife Rose, Timothy Burke and Joseph Burke; and one sister; Cynthia Taylor and husband Myers. In addition to his mother, William was predeceased by brother Russell Burke Jr.

Elizabeth Burke-Archer was born April 21, 1984, in Becket, the daughter of William Burke-Archer and Marguerite Archer. Elizabeth is survived by son Jonathan William Long, grandmother Floy Archer, and aunt Nancy Archer. In addition to her parents, Elizabeth was predeceased by grandfather Edward Archer.

A memorial service for William J. Burke-Archer and Elizabeth Burke-Archer was held Saturday, August 10, at the Becket Federated Church in Becket, with Rev. Kevin Smail officiating.

From Linda Thorpe: Billy was born and grew up here, and his father, Russell, was born and grew up here. The grandparents were Grace and Claude "Tim" Burke. Tim was born in Corner House and was the oldest resident (presented the "Cane" in 1997) and lived to 101. The Burke family goes way back. They lived in the house on the east side of New Marlboro Road that was torn down this past year.

While We Knealt

his dreams were filling up
fast with sure fire killing
two more sips of satanic juice
he was more than willing
while the moon waxed steady
toward equinox
while we knealt unawares
the ticking of his clock

how is it that such beauty:
the changing moons
each season and what each brings
those improvised tunes
could co-exist with such hate
such dis-disonance
such non-harmony, pure grate
and anti-resonance.

the scene along the hudson
sunset on the 5:47
exquisite realism
realize me heaven!

I am confused; I know
we reconcile, then vacillate
between light and darkness
but joy, life obliterate?
is this our paradox:
humanity still barbaric
still unevolved, trampling
our sacred flower garden?

—Boney Oscar
March 2019

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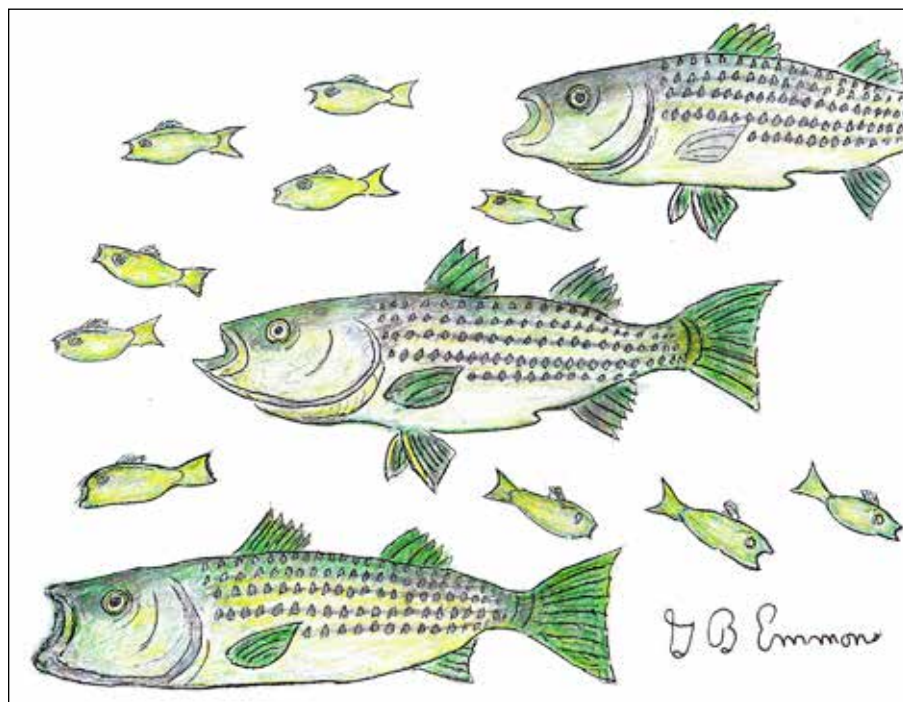
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Striped Bass Migration

The Striped Bass, affectionately called a Stripper by sportsmen for their distinct striped markings along their sides, prefers a water temperature from 55° to 68°. To stay in this temperature range, they migrate north in the spring and south in the fall. The spring migration begins in April from distant winter waters along the Texas and Louisiana coast, and the east coast of Florida. They gradually pass up along the coastlines of North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland. There they detour into the Chesapeake Bay to spawn, and later into Delaware, Hudson, and Connecticut Rivers for the same reproductive ritual. Striped Bass are an anadromous species, because they spawn in the brackish waters at the head of estuaries, and in freshwaters, before moving back into the ocean. The young fish often stay in their fresh water homes for a year before moving back into the ocean to mature.

After spawning, the adults school up into moving formations, as in my illustration. They continue up along the Atlantic coast, sometimes passing through the Cape Cod Canal into Massachusetts Bay, and then along the full coastline of Maine. All along the way, sport fishing for Stripers is very active, although not as popular as in autumn. They have become the saltwater state fish in Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. The early colonists of the Plymouth Plantation settlement, after a starving winter, had tremendous gratitude for the legions of Striped Bass, Alewives, and the bass's larger cousin, Shad, that arrived with their northward migration. These species came to be known as the "founding fish," having saved the famished troops at Valley Forge so they could continue the fight to become a free nation.

Annual overfishing and commercial harvesting well into the start of the twen-



tieth century, gradually decimated their total numbers to a population of a mere five million. But it was not until 1982 that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission finally reacted by making them a protected game fish. They imposed the current minimum twenty-nine inch keeper requirement, and a ban was also imposed to prohibit commercial harvesting beyond the three-mile coastal limit. In just ten years under these restrictions, the population remarkably bounced back to fifty-six million. Only about 3.8 million are taken annually for sport fishing, insuring a healthy population for the future.

The largest Striped Bass ever taken on light tackle was eighty-one pounds, and four feet in length. The Striped Bass has a mild but firm, flavorful flesh, with a large flake. It is popular when pan seared, steamed, poached, sautéed, roasted, but especially when grilled outdoors, making it a gourmet ritual in coastal communities. Popular demand continues so strong that

U.S. Fish and Wildlife is experimenting to hybridize the wild Striped Bass with a commercially common White Bass. The hybrid is called a Wiper, and was stocked experimentally in lakes and rivers across the country. Once the ensuing inland natural population became established, it was verified as a landmark success. However, an observable diminution of spawning activity meant that natural reproduction levels must be augmented by stocked fish from hatcheries.

The fall south migration of Stripers is already upon us. As in the 1950s end-of-summer popular song, "September Song," "The days get shorter when you reach September," and declining water temperatures will propel them into motion. We will soon witness a seasonal ebb tide motion of migrating songbirds, waterfowl, Ospreys, hummingbirds, and butterflies, along the Atlantic flyway. This movement will also be visibly shadowed under water by the Stripers on the move. As they boil to the surface after bait fish such as peanut bunkers and silversides, gulls appear and dive down on the schools of younger bass who are blitzing the bait ponds. Stripers' fall migration will extend into late October. Along with falling autumn leaves past our window on Buzzards Bay, the migrating Striped Bass is a very moving seasonal curtain call.

—George B. Emmons

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small works by Monterey artists

thru September 27

KNOX GALLERY

Monterey Library

Monterey Perennial

Joe Baker
Maureen Banner
Christine Brunoski Goldfinger
Ron Goldfinger
Richard Kimball

artist reception: Sat., Oct 5, 6:30-8pm

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library



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Mark Ferraro saw this bald eagle over
Lake Garfield. See page 24.

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A Miracle of Monarchs

It's been a spectacular season: The long, delicious, not-too-hot days, gentle nights, enough rainfall to keep things lush. The bountiful blossoms, the lightning bugs flickering in the woods, the birdsongs, the cloud formations, the garden bounty. And then, lately, that quintessential element of a perfect summer, the butterflies.

It's sometimes fun to look at gifts of nature from a fresh perspective. I try to imagine, for instance, what it might be like to encounter butterflies if I were from a planet where they didn't exist. Coming upon these delicate and colorful flights of fancy swimming on air, it might seem as if their sole purpose were to delight. "These are flowers that fly and all but sing," wrote Robert Frost, in a nod to their grace.

So wondrous are these creatures that it is hard to comprehend that centuries ago, people considered their "supernatural" shape-shifting to be a sure sign of witchcraft. It took a seventeenth century artist and naturalist, Maria Merian, just thirteen years old at the time, to observe and report about just how this metamorphosis occurred. On the other hand, the more one learns about butterflies in general, and about monarchs in particular, the more magical they seem.

Once I stopped, stunned, to see thousands of them roosting in a single tree at the end of the boardwalk near the bay at Fire Island. At first it wasn't clear what I was looking at, what appeared to be bunches of exotic jeweled fruit dangling from the boughs. But they were just taking a collective rest on their journey southward, a wholly improbable, four-generational, up to three-thousand mile (each way) journey to and from wintering sites in the mountains of Mexico.



It takes monarchs three generations to make their trek north to summer breeding grounds in the Northeast and Canada. A fourth "super generation" is able to return to Mexico in one long trek, thanks, in part, to their ability to catch updrafts that let them soar as much as a mile high on the energy of thermals. Wings outstretched, they can glide on the wind with little mechanical effort—there seems to be a "click" mechanism that more or less locks the wings into the angle, as Sue Halpern describes in her aptly named book, *Four Wings and a Prayer*.



A monarch caterpillar preparing to form a crysalis

Earlier this summer I attended a workshop in Alford on edible plants with naturalist Russ Cohen. My ears perked up when he mentioned the local abundance of milkweed and the number of monarchs, who depend on the plant, that he had seen.

I was glad to hear it, because at the time, I hadn't seen any.

A little over a week later, on July 21, I spotted a dazzle of orange and black floating over the driveway of the Monterey Community Center.

Two days later, I saw another, but in a less propitious circumstance—crossing Route 7 near the mall.

Another two days later, again at the Community Center, I was happy to see that a monarch had found the native plant plot, and was dipping and sipping from the echinacea and hummingbird's mint nectars. It dallied in the garden for fifteen minutes or so, before fluttering off.

The next day, while Bradley and I ate on the deck of Lucia's in Lenox, a monarch spent the entirety of our dinnertime alighting and supping on one blossom after another in the restaurant's small but vibrant garden. Beyond the sheer pleasure it evoked, the monarch's dining habits validated the practice that so many naturalists preach: cultivate native species, because with so much natural habitat chopped up and built over by humans, even tiny patches of native plants can be a lifeline for pollinators. Butterflies manage to find these disparate food sources, as Edward O. Wilson tells us in *Consilience*, because their eyes have evolved to pinpoint pollen and nectar sources from a distance by the pattern of ultraviolet rays, invisible to us humans, that they see reflected off the petals.

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Top photo on page 20 and poster image above courtesy of Monarch Watch.

The following day I observed a *Danaus plexippus* tritaxia: three monarchs in a single day. And then I stopped counting. Clearly monarchs still frequent these parts. They have not been wiped out by the precipitous loss of insects I have been hearing about. I later read that 2018 had been a relatively successful one for the monarch migration. According to the information-packed Monarch Watch website, monarchwatch.org, populations this year will not reach their peak here in the Berkshires until mid-September. And due to cooler than average temperatures, their numbers will be down.

Certainly I am not seeing monarchs in the profusion I recall from my childhood in the suburbs of Chicago. Our subdivision bordered on an overgrown field, wild with milkweed, thistle, Queen Anne's Lace, and other meadow plants. There, monarchs, along with black and tiger swallowtails, cabbage whites, and assorted small blues, were abundant. They were so numerous that it didn't bother me to capture, euthanize, and mount specimens for my summer science class.

These days, thankfully, students are more likely to raise and release monarchs, after witnessing their radical transformation from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. Or, students may catch, tag, weigh and measure them, then send in the data to Monarch Watch. The organization distributed some 400,000 butterfly tags last year alone, and the information gleaned from

this crowdsourcing by citizen scientists has, since 1992, played a crucial role in unraveling the mystery of the monarch migration. The studies are yielding valuable information even as the odds against its survival—the fluctuating climate, the loss of milkweed, and the decline of the very specific ecosystems needed to support wintering monarchs—mount.

I first learned of the migration while still living near Chicago before it was well understood. We did observe that for a few days toward the end of summer, orange and black ribbons of monarchs would stream southward, as I now know, toward Mexico. We were witness to what is considered one of the most amazing of phenomena in the animal kingdom.

How do they do it? They can't ride the thermals the whole way—they also do quite a bit of determined flapping, somehow making the needed adjustments

to handle changing weather patterns and disappearing sources of nectar. "The wind comes up, the rain comes down, the clouds cover the radial light," writes Sue Halpern. "The asters have withered and the goldenrod, too, but the monarch, moving south-southwest, twenty-five, forty, eighty-nine miles a day, sure in its mission to survive and reproduce, adjusts."

Reading about their determination vividly brought to mind a monarch I saw one wet and windy late September morning, as I was pedaling northward in New York City along the East River bike path. On the border of this extensive and intensively urban landscape one lonely monarch was valiantly flapping away, making its way southward, in the rain, against the wind, on only three and a half wings—and my silent prayer.

—Janet Jensen

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september

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Bidwell House Museum John Demos Honored

The Bidwell House Museum was pleased to honor Tyringham neighbor, long-time board member, and devoted museum supporter, John Demos, at the annual summer garden party fundraiser on August 3. Despite the stormy weather, guests enjoyed a festive evening with mini-tours of the museum, delicious hors d'oeuvres by Old Inn on the Green, and beautiful music by Eric Martin and Karen Axelrod. Just as the skies opened up and the rain began, the crowd was being treated to an eloquent and intelligent treatise by John Demos extolling the virtues of history education. His moving words were inspiring to all and showed the importance of places like The Bidwell House Museum. The thundery skies served to emphasize what John had to say, and in the end it was a fantastic party. And we would be remiss to not mention the special tribute that was paid to beloved museum supporter Barbara Tryon. Barbara was a founding member of the museum, an enthusiastic volunteer on the membership committee, and could often be found at the welcome table at the summer party. She will be greatly missed.

Special thanks to the party committee and event volunteers: Diane Austin and Aaron Nurick, Joanne Bell and Doug McTavish, Walter and Mary Jo Engels, Greg and Paula Gimblette, Linnea Grealish, Mimi and Ken Heyman, Rob and Cindy Hoogs, Malinka Jackson, Jane Johnson, Nancy Jones, Kathryn Roberts, and Linda Saul-Sena. Thank you also to party sponsors Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Brockman Real Estate, and Foresight Land Services. We were thrilled to see so many of our friends supporting history education and we sincerely hope that more and more people will come to enjoy the local treasure that is the Bidwell House museum. Look for details soon for our fall party on November 16—a time when we celebrate the season past.

Fall Events

Coming up in September and October the Bidwell House Museum has a number of interesting guided hikes planned.

Saturday, September 14: The museum is working with Mass Audubon to



Trustee Delight Dodyk, Bidwell Museum Board President Rob Hoogs, and Trustee Richard Greene at the August 3 garden party
Photo by Robin Parow

present “From Bedrock to Birds: How Geology and Hydrology Shape Ecosystems.” On this guided walk educator Dale Abrams will show you how to “read” the landscape on a deeper level by making connections between geological features, including bedrock and landform, and habitat characteristics for plants and wildlife along the trails at the Bidwell property. The hike will last approximately two hours and attendees should dress for

a hike and bring water. 10 a.m. to noon. Tickets are \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members, free for 18 and under, and can be purchased on the museum website or via phone at 413-528-6888.

Housatonic Heritage Walks: Later in September the museum is very excited to once again join with the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area for two free guided walks. This is the eighteenth year that Housatonic Heritage has partnered with local



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historic, cultural, and natural sites in MA and CT to present these walks. The Museum will offer two walks this year that begin at 10 a.m. in front of the Bidwell House.

Saturday, September 21: “Retracing Native Histories on the Landscape,” a walk along the Native American Interpretive trail, with Rob Hoogs, 10 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, September 28: “In the Steps of the Early Settlers” follows along on the Royal Hemlock Trail Hike, led by Richard Greene. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All walks will last two to three hours, and the Royal Hemlock trail hike is strenuous. Please dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack. If you are planning to attend any of these hikes, please contact the museum by calling 413-528-6888 or by email at bidwellhouse@gmail.com. For more information about all of these walks, look under “Events” on the museum website bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Saturday, October 5: “Early Epitaphs,” John Hanson is presenting a lecture and walk. In his talk, he will share some favorite verses from local gravestones and discuss their sources. The talk will consider how eighteenth-century Berkshire residents might have accessed the source texts, far from the centers of commerce and publishing. Hanson will also discuss what these very personal choices tell us about early New Englanders’ attitudes towards life and death. This program will start with

a presentation at the museum and then the group will travel to the Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Monterey to see examples of the epitaphs discussed.

Dress for the weather and plan for a short four-mile drive, from the museum to the cemetery. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members, free for 18 and under, and can be purchased on the museum website or via phone at 413-528-6888.

If it has been a while since you visited the museum, or you have out-of-town guests who are new to the area, send them over for a tour of the historic home or a walk on the trails. The museum is open Thursday through Monday each week, with tours on the hour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the last tour beginning at 3 p.m. Learn about life in eighteenth-century Berkshires or take the self-guided tour of the new Native American Interpretive trail. You can find brochures and trail maps on the front porch of the museum. The last day of tours for the 2019 season is Monday, October 28. We hope to see you soon!



Petunias

Bonsai Cox



Bonsai Cox

Turkey Vultures at the transfer station.

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Wildlife

Foxes, a big cat, a big bird, two mistaken identities, and bountiful *Lepidoptera*

Late in July Tim Lovett called to tell about a Mountain Lion on Eaton Road, where he lives. There's no doubt about the identity here. This was a clear sighting. Also about this time, Walter Ritter and Diana Deacon of Beartown Mountain Road had a visit from the local bear family in that neighborhood. At first they saw the three little cubs, then the "gigantic" mama came along. Walter says they were attracted by a dumpster near the house, containing some lunch remains left by a roofing crew. When finished at the dumpster, the bears went to the apple orchard where "the little bears climbed up in a jiffy" and shook the four trees. Apples fell to the ground and the mama ate them. Walter was struck by how healthy they all looked.

Robert Johnson saw a bear family crossing Hupi Road near its western (paved) end and sent in a photograph (see page 12) showing two cubs and the mama. Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen saw a young bear cross Tyringham Road and noted it was looking lean and leggy.

There is more to say about Ellen Coburn's swallowtail butterfly from last month. This was not a Black Swallowtail, as identified by me, rather a Giant Swallowtail, not so often seen hereabouts. Thank you, Ellen, for the correction! Black Swallowtails are more black, and Giant Swallowtails are more giant. Then in early August Ellen sent a good photograph of a genuine Black Swallowtail (page 25). The males in this species have two rows of yellow dots along the edges of the wings, also a little blue and red. The females show less yellow and more striking blue and red.

Speaking of last month's mistaken identities, the turtle basking on the lower deck of the new library was a Painted Turtle. It's easy to make a mistake, but if it had been a Box Turtle, as noted in the caption, it would have been more boxy, with the carapace or upper part of its shell more highly domed up.

Kyle Pierce of Lake Buel reports that the Red-winged Blackbirds have left. Last year, she says, they left even earlier, August 1.



Michael and Maureen Banner sent several photographs of a Red Fox browsing on their blueberries (above). They were also charmed a few days later by the visit of fox kits playing on their lawn.

Early in August, folks around Monterey were noticing the Monarch caterpillars, getting bigger and bigger as they munched on milkweed. Suzanne Sawyer sent a photograph of one, also of a lovely green chrysalis with its row of golden dots near the top.

Lisa Smyle sent in the first photograph of a newly emerged Monarch, in all its sharp new colors. This was August 10. Suzanne Sawyer wrote about her many Monarch caterpillars and sent a photograph of several. She says this is the first they have seen them at her place. Besides this, there has been a "herd of dragonflies" at the Sawyers'.

Also in mid-August, Michael and Maureen Banner spotted two big Tomato Hornworms heavily infested with parasitic Tachinid Fly egg cases. These are doomed hornworms that will never become big Five-spotted Hawkmoths. Rather, they will fly off as about fifty new Tachinid Flies. Last month we had a great close-up photograph of a Tachinid Fly from Colta Ives in the Wildlife Report.

Still in the *Lepidoptera* department, Colta Ives wrote of her many Monarch caterpillars, some of which were hanging head down in a j-shape, which means they were getting ready to form chrysalises. (See photo on page 20.) She also took a picture of the caterpillar of the Pandorus Sphinx Moth, nibbling on Virginia Creeper, its favorite food (right).



And speaking of birds, Kathie Frome of Hupi Road sent photographs of a young bird brought in by her cat, miraculously undamaged (above). This was a fledgling Cedar Waxwing and was later carefully released at the edge of the woods, with the cat under house arrest for awhile.

Mark Ferraro, of Otis, sent a splendid photograph of a Bald Eagle flying over Lake Garfield at the end of July.

In more bird news, Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen have been watching their bluebirds, which have produced two broods this summer. The youngsters from the first group have been helping the parents feed the second batch, and in the middle of August Steve and Wendy saw three bluebird chicks and one sparrow chick very nearby, making them wonder if there were two kinds of eggs hatched out in one box. The adult sparrows had been participating in some way during the nestling phase of the bluebird family. Steve says this is still a mystery, but certainly the Song Sparrows and the Eastern Bluebirds were in a local "companion flock" together. Generally, Song Sparrows are not thought to nest in cavities or boxes, but you never know.



Here in East Monterey on Hupi Road we have House Wrens for the first time in many years, and we are hearing Black-billed Cuckoos every day. Try as we may, we do not see these furtive and ventriloquist birds. They love to eat caterpillars.

Joe Baker has seen a partly-grown White-tailed Deer fawn in the woods near the sugar-house. The youngster was still wearing its spots, though it was not a real small fawn. It was unafraid of Joe, and even curious about him, maybe because Joe was talking. We don't know what he said.

Thanks, as always, for sending us your wildlife news.

—Bonner McAllester, 528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com.



Monarch metamorphosis—Above: Suzanne Sawyer photographed a beautiful Monarch caterpillar and later, a chrysalis. They don't necessarily place their chrysalis on the plants they eat, as demonstrated by Lisa Smyle's photos below of a chrysalis attached to some siding, and the newly emerged Monarch with the chrysalis casing still visible.



Ellen Coburn's Black Swallowtail



The Banners' parasitized Tomato Hornworm, with Tachinid egg sacs attached all up and down it

September Dragon

By the still lake at dawn
As the sun touched the glistening alders
And lit up the opal-beaded cattails
One of the smaller dragonflies
Helicoptered to a twig tip, from darting
Speed to sudden, motionless rest.
This lethal lord of the insect world
Had a slim, iridescent ruby body,
Glittering gossamer rainbow wings,
A shaggy, rich brown fur jacket,
A shiny space helmet, fully equipped
With every needful raptor receptor.

—David P. McAllester
October, 1999

Untitled

We have come now	
To a pause	A hard maturity That is whole
A dry silence	
As the seed	A ripened past
Prepares to fall	That preserves within,
From the husk	Succulent certainty.
The stillness	
Of an end	The soft kernel
That comes before	Of resurrection.
The next beginning	

—Nick Hardcastle
September 1999



Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, September 9 and 16, at 4 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, September 11, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, September 9 and 23, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, September 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, September 18, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, September 12 and 26, at 7 p.m.

Select Board: Wednesday, September 4, at 6 p.m., and September 18, at 9 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

—Kenn Basler, Chair
Don Coburn and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(don@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click “Contact Us” at www.montereyma.gov

In My View



Broadband

The select board had its annual “second homeowners” meeting on August 10, and had a lively discussion about high speed internet—or really—the lack of. What is holding up the process? A brief overview was presented, and frustration was clearly felt with the inability of the select board and Fiber Connect to close this out.

One of the positive suggestions that came out of the meeting was to have a community-wide forum on high speed internet in Monterey. This will be a chance to better understand the process, get a clear timeline from Fiber Connect on their build out plans, hear what Fiber Connects needs from the town, and a chance to better understand where the town is in relationship to the state funds, their availability, and steps necessary to reach a final build out.

Fiber Connect, working with the select board, has agreed to hold such a forum on Saturday, September 21, at 10 a.m., in the town hall. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. This is the final push and we need everyone helping. Remember, “If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.”

August Contributions

Once again, thanks to all our contributors to the *Monterey News*.

Margaret Dudley
Bebe Bernstein
Jodi Clarin
Jeff Purvis
Mort & Teri Salomon
June Thomas

Upcoming Blood Drives

American Red Cross
RedCrossBlood.org

Monday, September 17: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fairview Commons, 151 Christian Hill Road, Great Barrington.

Friday, October 4: Berkshire South community center, 15 Chrissey Road, Great Barrington.

Tyringham Road

If you have traveled on the Tyringham Road recently you would have noticed the metal plate. The temporary plate is covering a failed culvert that is causing a major road failure. The important word in the previous sentence is “temporary,” and the other unstated phrase that brings dread to town officials is “stream crossing.” The failed culvert is very undersized for the water it needs to carry. The new culvert will be twice as large, made of concrete, and constructed with an open bottom that allows better movement of wildlife and aquatic life, along with being capable of handling the increased spring storms.

We are currently aiming for the work to be done during the week after Columbus Day. It will require closing the road and detouring traffic. There will be a detailed article in the October issue of the *Monterey News*, and we will be sending information and alerts through our email alert system. (To sign up, go to montereyma.gov, and click on a box at the lower left.)

—Kenn Basler, Chair
Monterey Select Board

Editor’s Note: In My View is an opportunity for select board members to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.

Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is:

dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us

- Police dispatch service number:

413-236-0925.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

528-3211.

September Calendar

Mondays: Mahjong, at the community center, at 7 p.m. See page 6.

Tuesdays:

Chair Yoga, with Connie Wilson, 9 a.m., at the community center. Sponsored by the parks commission.

Community Chorus at the community center, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Note: Not meeting on September 17. See page 7.

Wednesdays: Mahjong, at the community center, at 3:30 p.m. See page 6.

Thursdays: Canasta lessons at community center, 7 to 9 p.m. See page 6.

Saturdays:

Housatonic Heritage Walks. See page 14.

Ping Pong at community center, 2 p.m. See page 6.

Sundays: Housatonic Heritage Walks. See page 14.

Thursday, September 5: Darn Yarners at community center, 1 to 3 p.m. See page 6.

Monday, September 9:

Council on Aging, 10 a.m., at town hall. See page 5.

Lake Garfield Working Group, 7 p.m., at town hall. See page 4.

Tuesday, September 10: Movie night at town hall. *Crossing Delancey* will be shown. See page 5.

Thursday, September 12:

Foot nurse, 9 a.m. to noon, at town hall. See page 5.

Darn Yarners at community center, 1 to 3 p.m. See page 6.

Saturday, September 14:

Fishing Derby, 9:30 to 11 a.m. See page 11.

Bidwell House Museum and Mass Audubon, "From Bedrock to Birds" hike. 10 a.m. to noon. See page 22.

Open house at Moving Arts Exchange, from noon on. See page 13.

Friday, September 20:

Monterey News deadline.

Amber Chand, *Searching for the Moon*, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the community center. See page 6.

Saturday, September 21:

Broadband Forum, 10 a.m., town hall. See page 28.

"Retracing Native Histories," Bidwell House Museum guided walk. 10 a.m. to noon. See page 23.

Lenox Contra Dance: 8 to 11 p.m. Live traditional New England dance music with Chimney Swift, calling by Angela DeCarlis, Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007.

Saturday, September 28: "In the Steps of the Early Settlers," Bidwell House Museum, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See page 23.

Saturday and Sunday, September 28 & 29: Berkshire Pottery Tour. See page 11.

Saturday, October 5:

"Early Epitaphs" lecture and walk, beginning at the Bidwell House Museum, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See page 23.

Reception for "Monterey Perennials" show at Knox Gallery, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. See page 7.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at 413-528-4007 or email.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:

528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443

x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600

center@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136

chief@montereyma.gov

Highway Department: 528-1734

dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795

montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

SBRSD (Schools) 413-229-877

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

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Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.



Only a part of the crowd of library fans who were present for the ribbon cutting.

MONTEREY NEWS

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*Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 18, Bonner McAllester, p. 16,
Kit Patten, p. 15.*

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